

LIBERTY IN MADCAP MOOD.

WHISKS WASHINGTON FROM WALL STREET FOR AN OUTING.

She Shows Off the Town and Some New Ventures—They Make an Impression on All Whom They Meet, and Find Friends—Comments on the New Ways of the World.

Night time in Wall street. Business all slackened and abated within the great office buildings. The ancient thoroughfare, so hushed in quiet that even the tread of a cat hushedly past the Sub-Treasury building wakens a silent echo.

Washington standing out on the steps in benevolent attitude as though thanking the stars for the welcome rest is suddenly made aware of a presence near him, a tall, elegantly radiant presence in woman's garb, the sight of whom alters his expression in a jiffy.

"What, you, Liberty?" he exclaimed. In a tone of innocent gratification. "This is indeed, a surprise! How good of you!"

"I'm always drawn to you at inauguration time," returned the goddess. "It seems that you and I ought to meet each other on the way back, so to speak, every time the inauguration comes around, and particularly this year, when the Daughters of the Revolution have been making such a stir with their meetings."

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"The star daughter of the Revolution in the country, and you the great figure in soldier and statesmanship who made the country possible and inaugurated the first inauguration and the first Congress. With these reflections in mind I could not rest still on my pedestal there on Bedloe's. I had to come for a word and in celebration."

Washington smiled. He had been smiling since his visitor first arrived; she was plainly a favorite.

"I want to celebrate," continued the goddess. "I'm enthusiastic. I got off my stilts on purpose and propose that you go up onto the roof with me to see the sights, and investigate a little of this world that I have enlightened largely through your instrumentalities."

"And your torch? Your banner? Lights? Whill set to that with you?" said the General, with the air of one accustomed to delivering stately orations.

"The torch will be all right," Liberty assured him. "I'm dual in nature, you know. Dual and aristocratic. When I want to slip off to attend to interests abroad I leave the work of Liberty to hold up the torch and swing to the table." Besides it will never be known that the bird has flown. Nobody goes near enough to the statue at night to read the inscription. It isn't, as it was, daytime, with all my European and coast liners coming in and the saloon passengers studying me through glasses. I'm glad to get away occasionally from all the states and comments. Come up town just for once and there'll be fun at the expense of our earthlings and some new experiences. Did you ever ride on a cable car, or talk over a telephone? Attend a vaudeville show or see a modern society play?

"Down here you see only the bustle and pressure of the generation, seen man driving busily like machines, dollar-making machines. But well see them where they live, see the gentler side of men with more leisure, more time, more love and their names. Well soon know them and their names. Well soon look in at some private entertainments if you like. I have the key to the knowledge and the whereabouts of most things. Many people of high station are not familiar, although this poor and humble like me."

"There was always that about you that took men off their feet and sometimes made them lose their heads," said the General.

"Yes, I've made some star in the world," owned the goddess. "The obelisk up in the Park revealed to me only lately that men were fussing about me as long back as he can remember. I'm used to people making sacrifices for me and getting into trouble on my account. So if in our racket to-night we cause dismay to some users and officers it won't be anything now."

"You're in madcap mood, Liberty," said Washington, "as captaining as ever. I don't wonder at the power you wield."

"I have perennial youth and get a stronger hold on mortals all the while," said the goddess. "Occasionally I project myself before a King's vision, a slender thing with telling effect, something like a diamond, which subjects recognize me then. Then men of a certain little European kingdom in the present time indulge in very high revels in order to furnish all thought of me and my power. But you have not said whether we shall set out. I thought to call on Lafayette, your old ally. He behaved in an offhand, casual, way which delighted to see us together."

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